

Dear Friend:

This week in Congress we continued to seek solutions for the present energy situation in our country. I feel that we need to alleviate the pain hard-working Americans are feeling at the pump while developing long-term solutions to reduce our demand for oil. The Republican response, however, is quite different. They introduced the cynically named Gasoline for American Security (GAS) Act and rushed it for a vote on the House floor only 11 days later. The GAS Act does little to lower gas prices, but rather increases profits of large oil companies and weakens existing environmental laws. In another shameful abuse of power, the majority held the GAS Act vote open for more than eight times longer than scheduled in order to twist arms and pass the legislation. The GAS Act passed by a vote of 212-210.

I offered an amendment to the GAS Act entitled the Low Income Gasoline Assistance Program Act (LIGAP) to curb the effect high gas prices are having on families in New Mexico. Similar to my stand alone bill, my LIGAP Amendment calls for qualifying recipients to receive \$25-\$75 per month for three months to pay for gasoline, if prices where they live remain high. If the price of gasoline does not fall back below the program's trigger price, recipients will be allowed to reapply for another three months' benefit. The Republican leadership is so fearful of even debating real solutions to our gas price problems that they did not even allow the amendment to reach the floor and come to a vote. This clearly shows that the intention of the GAS Act is not to help hard-working Americans, but rather to further increase the record-breaking profits seen by large oil and gas companies since Hurricane Katrina. Please visit <http://www.tomudall.house.gov/display2.cfm?id=5798&type=Issues> to learn more about LIGAP.

LIGAP is not meant to be a substitute for the long-term energy solutions we all seek for our nation. We face tough, long-range choices concerning this issue. I am continually working to reduce our demand for oil and gas through investment in new, efficient technologies that will reduce our demand for oil. Furthermore, I seek investment in and implementation of renewable energy sources that not only lower prices at the pump, but also will preserve the great beauty of New Mexico for future generations. Hopefully, when the GAS Act returns from the Senate, it will provide real relief to New Mexicans and I will be able to support it.

Yours Very Truly,

Tom Udall  
Member of Congress